GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
URBAN DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2119
ANSWERED ON:14.12.2004
CONDITION OF CITIES
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Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has recently expressed concern over the condition of cities in the country;

(b) if so, whether due to over population, low urban productivity, unchecked migration, proliferation of slums and environmental pollution, the condition of cities is on the verge of col lapse; and

(c) if so, the details of the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to save the cities from such mess?

Answer

MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT(SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD)

(a): The Government is seized of the problems of infrastructure facing the cities.

(b): Increase in population has led to overburdening of infrastructure/ facilities like power, water supply, sanitation, traffic & transportation and housing. Infrastructure facilities are augmented through Centrally Sponsored Schemes.

(c): To tackle the problems of inadequate infrastructure of urban areas, this Ministry operates centrally sponsored schemes of Integrated Development of Small and Medium Towns, Infrastructure Development, Mega City and Accelerated Urban Water Supply Programme. Further, strengthening of infrastructure is proposed to be done through the following measures:-

> Launch of new schemes for urban infrastructure development and water supply & sanitation which would be applicable to all towns and cities,

> Accounting Reforms in Urban Local Bodies.

> Improving credit worthiness of Urban Local Bodies in order to help them access capital market for financing infrastructural projects.

> E-governance in municipalities.